EXHIBIT NO.

<u>6</u> 3-26-02

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, sexual violence against women has continued to be perpetrated at a national rate of one rape every six minutes; and

WHEREAS, the National Institute of Justice estimates that nearly 400,000 adult women and men are sexually assaulted each year in the United States; and

WHEREAS, one in three girls and one in seven boys are sexually assaulted before the age of eighteen; and

WHEREAS, the Alexandria Office on Women provided services to 592 adult and child victims of sexual assault during Fiscal Year 2001; and

WHEREAS, the impact of sexual assault is not confined to any group of people, but crosses all economic, age, racial, and social barriers; and

WHEREAS, sexual violence against women results in emotional trauma, physical harm, or death to women; and

WHEREAS, the Office on Women is commemorating the victims of sexual violence through a City-wide public awareness campaign during April;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, KERRY J. DONLEY, Mayor of the City of Alexandria, and on behalf of the Alexandria City Council, do hereby proclaim the month of April 2002, as:

"SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH"

in the City of Alexandria, and reaffirm the commitment of the City to the reduction and eventual elimination of sexual violence against women.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Alexandria to be affixed this 26th day of March 2002.

KERRY J. DONLEY MAYOR

On behalf of the City Council

of Alexandria, Virginia

Beverly I. Jett, CMC City Clerk

ATTEST: